

20. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the assigning step for each node comprises:

- (a) identifying one of the nodes;
- (b) identifying a first group of nodes, said first group of nodes comprising any nodes that directly communicate with the node identified in step (a);
- (c) for each node in the first group of nodes, identifying a second group of nodes, said second group of nodes comprising any nodes that directly communicate with said each node in the first group of nodes; and
- (d) including within a clique with the node identified in step (a)
 - a node in said first group of nodes, and
 - a node in said second group of nodes that communicates directly with the node identified in step (a) and with said node in said first group of nodes.

24. (Once Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the step of choosing time slots comprises assigning time slots to the cliques according to a hierarchy wherein:

- (a) cliques having a node that is a member of only one clique are first assigned time slots.

25. (Once Amended) The method of claim 24, wherein:

- (b) cliques having at least as many neighboring cliques as any neighboring clique are next assigned time slots.

26. (Once Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein:

- (c) cliques having two or more neighbors that were assigned time slots in steps (a) and (b) are next assigned time slots.